



GIFTED SERVICES – EARLY ENTRY PROCESS

LEGISLATION GOVERNING EARLY ENTRANCE

□ 1. Requesting Early Admission - Ohio

- In Ohio, children must turn five on or before the first day of school of the year s/he applies for entrance. A parent may request early admission to Kindergarten if the child turns five years of age after the district's first day of school **and** before January 1. A parent may also request early admission to first grade if the child is of Kindergarten age and will be six years of age before January 1. The local board of education shall determine early entrance through a standardized testing program.

□ 2. Referral by an Educator

- Children who will not yet be the proper age for entrance to kindergarten or first grade by the first day of January of the school year for which admission is requested shall also be evaluated for possible early admittance if referred by an educator within the district, a preschool educator who knows the child, or pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child.

□ 3. Acceleration in the State of Ohio:

- Early entrance to kindergarten is a subject typically addressed through gifted education. It is covered in the State of Ohio's Model Student Acceleration Policy. According to the Ohio Revised Code (3324.01), "gifted" means students who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment and who are identified under Division (A), (B), (C), or (D) of Section 3324.03 of the Revised Code. A unique type of whole-grade acceleration is early entrance (i.e., kindergarten or first grade). For academically talented young children, early entrance to school may be an excellent option. There is abundant evidence that bright children who are carefully selected for early entrance generally perform very well, both academically and socially (A Nation Deceived: how Schools Hold Back America's Brightest Students, 2004).

EARLY ENTRANCE PROCEDURE – WORTHINGTON SCHOOLS

□ 1. Age Eligibility

- A student must be age five (5) to enter kindergarten or age six (6) to enter grade one. Compulsory school age is six (6). However, if a child enters kindergarten at age 5, he or she is considered to be of compulsory school age. No district shall admit to the first grade a child who has not successfully completed kindergarten. The Worthington School District considers a child eligible for entrance into “regular” kindergarten if s/he attains the age of five on or before the first day of school of the year s/he applies for entrance. A child under the age of six (6) who is enrolled in kindergarten will be considered of compulsory school age.

□ 2. Early Admission Request

- There are four types of acceleration that may be requested for early entrance:

- Kindergarten: A child will be 5 before January 1st.
- Kindergarten: A child will not be 5 before January 1st .
- 1st grade: A child will be 6 before January 1st.
- 1st grade: A child will not be 6 before January 1st.

□ 3. Board of Education Adopted State of Ohio Policy

- On August 14, 2006 the Worthington Board of Education adopted the State of Ohio’s Model Student Acceleration Policy for Advanced Learners:
 - “Children who are referred for evaluation for possible accelerated placement 60 or more days prior to the start of the school year shall be evaluated in advance of the start of the school year so that the child may be placed in the accelerated placement on the first day of school. Children who will not yet be the proper age for entrance to kindergarten or first grade by the first day of January of the school year for which admission is requested shall also be evaluated for possible early admittance if referred by an educator within the district, a pre-school educator who knows the child, or pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child. Children who will not yet be the proper age for entrance to kindergarten or first grade by the first day of January of the school year for which admission is requested may also be evaluated for possible early admittance at the discretion of the principal of the school to which the student may be admitted.”

DEADLINES FOR EARLY ENTRANCE APPLICATIONS

- It is strongly encouraged that referral forms for Early Entrance to Kindergarten or First Grade are received by March 15th of the current year so testing can be completed by May 1st in order for principals to know their kindergarten enrollment should the student qualify for early entrance or for families to make alternative arrangements should the acceleration team determine that early entrance is not in the child's best interest.



THE REFERRAL PROCESS: COMPLETE THE APPLICATION

Early Entrance to Kindergarten

- Application if child turns 5 before January 1st may be completed by:
 - Parent
 - Educator within the District, Pre-school Education, pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child.
- If child turns 5 on or **after** January 1st, application **must** be complete by an Educator within the District, Pre-school Educator, Pediatrician or Psychologist who knows the child.

Early Entrance to First Grade

- Application if child turns 6 before January 1st may be completed by:
 - Parent
 - Educator within the District, Pre-school Education, pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child.
- If child turns 6 on or **after** January 1st, application **must** be complete by an Educator within the District, Pre-school Educator, Pediatrician or Psychologist who knows the child.

THE REFERRAL PROCESS: SCREENING

- Early Entrance Application completed and returned to Gifted Services at the Worthington Education Center.
- Gifted Services Assessor will contact parents to schedule testing. The following instruments are used for evaluation for early entrance:
 - INDIVIDUAL INTELLIGENCE TESTS:
 - Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence- Fifth Edition (WPPSI-V)
 - • According to the Iowa Acceleration Scale (3rd ed.), a student who meets the Critical Item (Section III) of one standard deviation above the mean (115) is a viable candidate for acceleration. All students may move on in the process for consideration, but whole-grade acceleration is not recommended if a critical item is checked. • Superior Cognitive identification (gifted) is 130 (minus the Standard Error of Measure, 127)
 - If candidate achieves the required score on the individual intelligence test, they will move to the individual achievement tests.
 - INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS
 - Woodcock-Johnson IV Tests of Achievement
 - Reading, Language, Math, and Academic Knowledge
 - If candidate achieves the required scores on the individual achievement tests, then an acceleration meeting will be scheduled.
- Gifted Coordinator schedules meeting with building principal to schedule acceleration team conference. Team will consist of:
 - Parent/Guardian
 - Principal of receiving school
 - Grade Level Teacher (Kindergarten or First Grade)
 - Gifted Coordinator
 - Student (if appropriate)

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

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Very few children qualify for early entrance to kindergarten.

Please make sure you proceed with child care arrangements as a contingency. If you are selecting a Preschool program please understand that those programs routinely fill up quickly. Please register your child as you normally would, but let the Preschool Office know that your child is being screened for early entrance to kindergarten.

- Worthington City Schools Gifted Website: [WCS Gifted](#)
- Early Entrance Packet and Application: [Early Entrance](#)
- Ohio Department of Education Gifted Page: [ODE Website](#)
- Ohio Department of Education Early Entry Guide: [Early Entry Guide](#)
- Ohio Department of Education Kindergarten Page: [ODE Kindergarten Page](#)
- Gifted Contact Information:
 - Suzanne Palmer - Gifted Services Coordinator - 614.450.6055 - spalmer@wscloud.org
 - Shannon Thomas – Gifted Services Administrative Assistant - 614.450.6056 – sthamas1@wscloud.org